

Medal for his heroic achievements during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Bronze Star, the Department of Defense's fourth highest award given, is awarded to individuals for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service.

Commander Asjes earned the Bronze Star as a military personnel assigned individually for his expertise in coordinating air combat operations, organizing ground units and executing tactical air operations. Commander Asjes served in Iraq from October 13, 2007 to April 2, 2008. He has honorably served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years.

Commander Asjes' sacrifices, heroism and hard work illustrate the compassion and professionalism of America's troops. I commend Navy Commander David Asjes' courageousness and service to our great nation and consider it an honor to represent Commander Asjes and his family in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best in his future service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO PROTECTION & ADVOCACY INC.

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Protection & Advocacy Inc. for their 30 years of advocacy in California on behalf of the disabled. Following the 1975 reports of abuse and neglect at a State institute called Willowbrook, Congress mandated and began to fund Protection and Advocacy systems across the Nation. In 1978, Protection & Advocacy Inc. was created as a nonprofit to advance human and legal rights of those with disabilities. The spirit and dedication of Protection & Advocacy Inc. still lives in their daily work. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of California's finest citizens.

For the past 30 years, Protection & Advocacy Inc. has advocated for Californians with disabilities that had been traditionally underserved. Since their first office opened in 1978 in my hometown of Sacramento, Protection & Advocacy Inc. has grown into 26 satellite offices throughout California. With more than 200 staff members, Protection & Advocacy Inc. provides services and information at community events, trainings and conferences. In order to properly represent the diverse community they serve, the staff members speak 15 different languages and more than half of their staff lives with disabilities themselves. Today, Protection & Advocacy Inc. is the largest disability advocacy agency in the Nation. It will soon be renamed Disability Rights California in order to more accurately reflect their mission.

As a response to congressional findings of abuse and neglect of individuals in residential care facilities, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act was enacted in 1986. This allowed Protection & Advocacy Inc. the opportunity to provide legal representation to persons with psychiatric disabilities and conduct investigations of abuse and neglect.

Protection & Advocacy Inc. strives to create an inclusive society. In 1993 they became a

cross disability advocacy agency when Congress extended their role to protect and advocate for those who were not eligible for services under other programs. Their work now also focuses on improving daily life for people living with disabilities. This includes strengthening access to justice, correcting wrongs, enforcing rights, training individuals on self-advocacy and legal protections, public education, and building collaboration across advocacy groups.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Protection & Advocacy Inc.'s distinguished commitment to the well-being of the disabled community. Over the last 30 years, they have expanded their mission with the changing times and have been true champions of those living with disabilities. As the Protection & Advocacy Inc.'s staff, supporters, and constituents gather together to celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work on behalf of Californians with disabilities.

HONORING BLANCA ALVARADO

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise with Congressman MIKE HONDA to honor Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado on her 28 years of elected service and wish her the best upon her retirement.

Supervisor Alvarado was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in March 1996 to complete my unexpired term upon my election to Congress. My colleague, MIKE HONDA had the pleasure of serving with Supervisor Alvarado during his term in office.

As the County Supervisor for the Second District, Blanca represented over 350,000 residents living in San Jose. Her district has one of the Nation's highest concentrations of racial diversity and poverty where the lack of opportunity is prevalent for many individuals and families.

During her time in office, Ms. Alvarado served on several committees as an engaged member of the board. As chair of the Children and Families' Committee, her efforts led to programs that focused on the comprehensive care of children and their families and reduced teen pregnancy. As chair of the Public Safety and Justice Committee, Supervisor Alvarado tackled issues of youth incarceration and provided productive alternatives to troubled youth other than incarceration. Her work established neighborhood programs to support anti-gang initiatives and she tirelessly pursued reforms that emphasized prevention and hope for the young residents of San Jose's poorest neighborhoods.

Additionally, Blanca served as an advocate for programs for incarcerated women and gave crucial support for programs and services for female inmates in county jail. Her work was so significant that the County Domestic Violence Council Conference presented her with its 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Always mindful of her cultural roots and the importance of ethnicity and race in America, Alvarado was the principal visionary behind the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

Blanca Alvarado has appointed more Latinas to commissions and committees than anyone else throughout her 28 years of service. This year, Ms. Alvarado launched the Latina Leadership Project in an effort to ensure that Latina leaders continue to have opportunities in Santa Clara County to serve their communities and inspire each other in their dreams of civic service.

It has been an honor for us to know Blanca Alvarado and on behalf of the many residents of the county of Santa Clara who have benefited from her leadership; we thank her and wish her the best upon her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ROBERT AMSDEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Amsden of Liberty, Missouri. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Amsden for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE ORFORDVILLE JOURNAL AND FOOTVILLE NEWS

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Orfordville Journal and Footville News, which ceased publication on August 15, 2008, after nearly a century of chronicling the lives of families in the Orfordville area of Rock County, Wisconsin. Its dedicated owners and publishers, the Stewart family, kept the small weekly newspaper alive for 92 years. Upon its closing, the Journal-News was the second oldest business in Orfordville.

The first issue of the Orfordville Journal debuted on December 17, 1908, but it was not until 1916 that the Stewart family became its owners, when Ward A. Stewart purchased the struggling newspaper at age 22. Later that year, a young woman named Rose came to work for the Journal. Rose and Ward soon married on a Wednesday night in Orfordville, but only after the printing of that week's paper was complete.

This and countless other Stewart family anecdotes illustrate a behind-the-scenes picture of the Journal-News as a quintessential family business rooted in the community that

it served. Early on, the Stewarts relied on the assistance of several local women to create the weekly Orfordville Journal. The labor was painstaking and slow—all of the typesetting was completed by hand, letter by letter, and pages were printed using hand-rollers.

When the newspaper added the Footville News section in 1925, the Stewarts upgraded to a linotype typesetting machine to speed production and accommodate the growing territory. Rose Stewart typically ran the linotype with her son, George, by her side, sleeping in a cradle, and as he got older, standing by in a playpen. At age 8, George had already written his first story. When he later entered journalism school at the University of Wisconsin, he found himself firmly upon the path to a career in the newspaper industry.

George Stewart and his wife, Betty, eventually succeeded his parents as owners of the Journal-News. George and Betty ushered the Journal-News into the 21st century with modern, computer-aided production processes; even so, the paper never lost its community focus and homegrown appeal. I commend the Stewarts on their service to their community and look forward to their new venture, an online Orfordville area news website.

**A TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM CLAY, SR.: A CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER, GREAT LEGISLATOR AND A PERMANENT PART OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE**

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William Clay, Sr., my father, and a former United States Congressman from the 1st Congressional District in St. Louis, Missouri. Bill Clay has fought a long and historic battle in defense civil and human rights for all Americans throughout his life. His dedication and service to our Nation as a leader on education, labor rights and civil rights, aptly earns his place in the Missouri Walk of Fame and the privilege of being honored today before Congress.

William Lacy Clay, Sr. one of six children was born on April 30, 1931, in St. Louis, Missouri to Luella Hyatt and Irving Clay. He is happily married to his wife of 55 years Carol, and they have raised three children, Vicki, Michelle and William, Jr.

When Bill Clay was elected to Congress in 1968, he was the first African American member elected from Missouri and one of only two African American representatives from states west of the Mississippi River. Throughout his 16 terms in Congress, he gained a reputation as an effective legislator. A staunch advocate for civil rights and social justice, he also served as one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. From 1991 to 1995 he chaired the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service and served as the Ranking Member on the Education and the Workforce Committee until he retired.

His success can largely be attributed to his belief that there were no permanent friends or permanent enemies in politics, just permanent interests. He was a true advocate for the peo-

ple that he represented, and he served them well. He's been credited with turning back racial discrimination throughout his career and remains an outspoken leader in our community. An accomplished author, he has documented the history of not only St. Louis, but the political arena throughout the Civil Rights era up to and including the present.

He worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised, always seeking to give them a voice in Congress. During his tenure he authored the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Act, which provided \$375 million in federal loan guarantees for construction and renovation projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and played a key role in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including efforts to reduce early grade class sizes by hiring 100,000 teachers nationwide.

Throughout his illustrious Congressional career, Clay co-sponsored 3,403 bills, of which 279 were enacted. Of the 248 bills that he sponsored, 16 were enacted. Bill Clay was the key sponsor of the transcendent Family and Medical Leave Act, the first bill signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This bill helped change the life of American families. He was instrumental in passing the Hatch Act which reformed the political activities of federal employees.

He continues to contribute to the American political landscape through his work as a successful author. He has authored several works including Just Permanent Interests: Black Americans in Congress, 1870–1991 (1992), which many view as essential American political reading. He continues to be a wonderful husband, loving father, and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, my father is my hero and I am proud to salute him for his lasting contributions to both our local St. Louis community and to our Nation. His outstanding leadership and sincere commitment to justice make him more than worthy of receiving our recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Former Congressman William Clay, Sr. for his induction into the Missouri Walk of Fame and his legacy of serving our Nation.

**HONORING MICHAEL CASHIN**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Cashin of Platte City, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Cashin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**TRIBUTE TO DAVID REHBEIN**

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Rehbein of Ames, Iowa, on being elected as the new national commander of The American Legion.

The American Legion is the United States' largest veterans organization. David is a member of the Ames Post No. 37. He is a U.S. Army veteran who served as an infantryman with the 4th and 1st Armored Divisions in Germany in 1970–1971. In July, David retired from the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory as a research metallurgist. He has served on the Iowa Commission on Veterans Affairs and represented Iowa on The American Legion's National Executive Committee.

I commend David Rehbein on his courageous service to our nation and for the many contributions he has made to the State of Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent David in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best serving in his new position.

**TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY "DOTTIE" JOHNSON**

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Postal Service, South Florida District. Dottie will retire as manager of diversity development, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in community leadership.

A native Miamian, Dottie attended Miami Northwestern Senior High School where she graduated with several honors and awards. In order to further her education, she attended Miami Dade College majoring in criminology, postal management and public administration. In May 1996, she was trained and certified as a Federal mediator. In 1997, she completed several business courses at the University of Michigan. In October 2000, she was trained and certified as a global career development facilitator. In 2001, she was trained and certified as a county mediator. In October 2003, she was trained and certified as an organizational development practitioner.

She complemented her educational achievements with her involvement in various organizations such as the Florida Minority Business Council Inc.; Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP; South Florida Federal Executive Board Diversity Council; South Florida Federal Executive Board; South Florida Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.; Excel Academy Inc.; Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Festivities Committee, Inc.; The Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc.; North Dade Federal Community Development Credit Union; UP-PAC; Broward County Business and Professional Women's Network; and mentor at North Dade Middle School and Nathan B. Young Elementary.

Dottie has lectured to various audiences and has served as an instructor, facilitator and